

Island (lat. 41°00' N, long. 72°05' W), 30 August 1978.

17. On Nantucket Island, Eel Point (lat. 41°17' N, long. 70°05' W), approximately 200 cm specimen (NEA MH78143), sex unknown. The stranding took place on 4 September 1978.

The Virginia stranding extends the southern distribution approximately 700 km southwest of Schevill's (1956) sighting. These reportings south of lat. 41° N indicate that the range of the Atlantic whitesided dolphin is farther south than the Cape Cod area thus extending the range into the Middle Atlantic Bight.

There were two previous published records which had placed this species farther south than Schevill's reporting; however, these appear to be erroneous. True (1885) reported a series of skulls of *L. perspicillatus* (= *L. acutus*) taken in a net fishery at Fort Macon, N.C. That collection of skulls, now in the USNM, were examined and determined to be bottlenosed dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus* (Mead 1975). Rhoads (1903) listed *L. acutus* as possibly occurring off the coast of New Jersey based upon an illustration in Godman (1828). An examination of the original illustration indicates that the species depicted was a common dolphin, *Delphinus delphis*.

These occurrences, as far south as the Chesapeake Bight, indicate the southernmost known extent of the Atlantic whitesided dolphin distribution along the western North Atlantic. It appears from this information that the Atlantic whitesided dolphin has a peak occurrence in the Mid-Atlantic Region during spring and summer.

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#### ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF THE SCULPIN *PSYCHROLUTES PHRICTUS* IN THE EASTERN BERING SEA AND OFF OREGON

*Psychrolutes phricus* Stein and Bond is an unusually large *Psychrolutes* known heretofore from deep water between Monterey, Calif., and northern Oregon. The species can be distinguished from its only congener, *P. paradoxus*, by differences in relative head length, gill raker and pectoral fin ray counts, and the presence of small cirri on both head and body. Recent collections in the Bering Sea and off Oregon supplement the type-description and contribute new information on range and early life history.

During a 2-mo period (summer 1978), while a member of the foreign fisheries observer staff of

the National Marine Fisheries Service, Colin Lau<sup>1</sup> subsampled trawl catches northwest of Unalaska Island on the Japanese fishing vessels *Tomu Maru No. 53* and *Eikyu Maru No. 12*. Lau often noticed a cottidlike fish that he was unable to identify with certainty. Two specimens of this fish, which he preserved, were accessed into the University of Washington fish collection and later identified by the authors as *P. phrictus*. Collection data for the two specimens (UW 20762 and 20763) and for two pelagic juveniles (OSUO 2437 and 2438), obtained in an opening-closing midwater trawl off Oregon (Pearcy et al. 1977), are given in Table 1.

<sup>1</sup>Colin Lau, College of Fisheries, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, pers. commun. October 1978.

Confirmation of the identity of these four specimens was made by comparisons with the meristic and morphometric characters used in the original description (Table 2). Methods for counting and measuring are as in Hubbs and Lagler (1964); measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm with dial calipers; unpaired fin rays and vertebrae were counted on radiographs. These specimens were slightly different from those previously available. The larger specimen from the Bering Sea (UW 20763) has an additional caudal vertebra that may have resulted from development in colder waters. The two juveniles from off Oregon have relatively larger heads than reported previously—evidence of the allometry described by Stein and Bond (1978).

TABLE 1.—Collection data for *Psychrolutes phrictus* in the eastern Bering Sea and off Oregon, 1978.

Specimen source	Date	Position		Haul depth (m)	<i>Psychrolutes phrictus</i>		Subsample weight (kg)
		Lat. N	Long. W		Number	Weight (kg)	
<i>Tomu Maru No. 53</i>	19 June	54°31'	167°35'	790	1	—	—
	25 June	54°29'	167°25'	685	1	—	—
	25 June	54°26'	167°30'	740	1	—	—
	26 June	54°41'	167°32'	680	1	—	—
	26 June	54°38'	167°29'	660	1 <sup>1</sup>	—	—
	2 July	54°20'	167°22'	900	1	—	—
	<i>Eikyu Maru No. 12</i>	13 July	54°22'	166°55'	868	1	5.0
20 July		54°18'	167°08'	1,240	1	3.5	118.2
21 July		54°21'	166°50'	925	1	7.7	135.2
22 July		54°20'	166°53'	1,050	1	5.4	131.1
22 July		54°20'	166°51'	940	1	8.0	119.2
25 July		54°20'	166°52'	850	2 <sup>1</sup>	0.3	96.0
26 July		54°19'	166°52'	925	4	11.4	139.1
26 July		54°15'	167°07'	1,320	1	4.6	133.3
28 July		54°22'	166°55'	865	1	7.9	132.2
OSUO <sup>3</sup> 2437		1 Sept.	44°47'	125°50'	495-505	1	—
OSUO 2438	2 Sept.	44°37'	125°43'	480-540	1	—	—

<sup>1</sup>University of Washington (UW) collection, Seattle, Wash.; [preserved] specimen UW 20762.

<sup>2</sup>[Preserved] specimen UW 20763.

<sup>3</sup>Oregon State University Oceanography (OSUO) collection, Corvallis, Oreg.

TABLE 2.—Meristic and morphometric (measurement in millimeters and percentage within parentheses) characters of *Psychrolutes phrictus* from the eastern Bering Sea and off Oregon.

Item	UW 20762	UW 20763	OSUO 2438	OSUO 2437	Stein and Bond (1978) <sup>1</sup>
Standard length, mm	113	126	28	30	
Fin rays:					
Dorsal	VIII, 20	VIII, 20	VIII, 19 or 20	VIII, 19	VII-IX, 19-20
Anal	13	13	13	13	12-14
Pectoral	23	23	24	23	22-26
Pelvic	1, 3	1, 3	1, 3	1, 3	1, 3
Principal caudal	11	11	11	11	About 13
Gill rakers	11	9	29	29	9-13
Vertebrae:					
Total vertebrae	35	36	34	35	33-35
Precaudal	12	12	13	13	—
Caudal	23	24	21	22	—
Head length <sup>3</sup>	46.4(41)	65.7(52)	15.9(55)	15.3(48)	(43.5-80.6)
Eye length <sup>4</sup>	9.6(21)	9.9(15)	3.2(20)	3.4(22)	(8.6-24.3)
Pectoral fin length <sup>4</sup>	30.2(65)	34.1(52)	7.6(48)	8.0(52)	(44.9-62.3)
Pelvic fin length <sup>4</sup>	10.2(22)	20.3(31)	4.0(25)	4.8(31)	(23.3-34.7)
Preanal length <sup>4</sup>	59.8(129)	75.1(114)	15.4(97)	12.7(83)	(93.8-132.2)

<sup>1</sup>Ranges for data in the original description.

<sup>2</sup>May be incomplete.

<sup>3</sup>Percentage is proportion of standard length.

<sup>4</sup>Percentage is proportion of head length.

A RECURRENT MASS STRANDING OF  
THE FALSE KILLER WHALE,  
*PSEUDORCA CRASSIDENS*, IN FLORIDA

Lau's observations on relative abundance of *P. phrictus* indicate that this species may constitute a significant portion of the demersal fish biomass in the area of the Bering Sea where he sampled. During a sampling period from 12 to 31 July, 76 hauls were taken, of which 38 were subsampled. *Psychrolutes phrictus* was present in subsamples from 9 of these 38 hauls and ranked 6 of 44 species found, based on weight. When individuals were present in subsamples of the catch, they represented 0.3-8.2% of the subsample weight (Table 1) and 1.8% of the overall subsample weight for the sampling period. Individuals were also observed casually in hauls where they were not part of the subsample.

The capture of two juveniles off the Oregon coast about 2,500 m above the bottom and about 65 km west of the lower continental slope is evidence that the larvae and juveniles are pelagic. Whether juveniles normally occur so far offshore, and if so, whether such individuals survive to reach the bottom, is not known. *Psychrolutes phrictus* probably leaves the pelagic zone and becomes demersal at about 30 mm. The rationale for this is that the juveniles (28 and 30 mm) reported here were pelagic, whereas those (30 and 49 mm) reported by Stein and Bond (1978) were benthic.

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The false killer whale, *Pseudorca crassidens*, is one of the several species of odontocetes known primarily through its relatively frequent mass strandings. These strandings offer a large amount of natural history data but, in most cases, investigators have been unable, for various reasons, to thoroughly study these events. As a result, very few data are available on the natural history of *P. crassidens* (Mitchell 1975a, b; Purves and Pilleri 1978). *Pseudorca crassidens* is distributed worldwide in temperate and tropical waters (Mitchell 1975b), and frequently strands in large numbers (Norman and Fraser 1948; Dudok van Heel 1962), exceeding 800 in one case (Marelli 1953; Tomilin 1957; Reiger 1975). The series of *P. crassidens* mass strandings we describe herein is the third in Florida in recent years. Caldwell et al. (1970) reported a stranding of 150-175 false killer whales near Ft. Pierce on the Atlantic coast of Florida in January 1970. Little data was collected and most of the animals were apparently buried on the beach. A heretofore unreported stranding occurred on 18-19 July 1972 on the northeast end of Sawyer Key (lat. 24°45.6' N, long. 81°33.4' W) in the lower Florida Keys on the Florida Bay (Gulf of Mexico) side. This site is approximately 35 km northeast of Key West (Figure 1). Nineteen animals were involved. Gordon Hubbell<sup>1</sup> estimated the largest animals to be 460 cm (15 ft) long. He measured a 320 cm (10.5 ft) male, a 376 cm (10.3 ft) female, and a 427 cm (14.0 ft) female.

Sequence of Events

1. The Florida Marine Patrol<sup>2</sup> reported a whale stranding near North Captiva Island on the southwest coast of Florida (Figure 1) on the morning of 22 July 1976. We found a dead 440 cm female false killer whale at Redfish Pass (Figure 2) and four live females aground on a sandbar in Pine Island Sound (Figure 2). We necropsied the dead animal on the beach and transported the live animals to Sea World, Orlando, Fla., on 22 July. At least 29 false killer whales had entered Pine Island Sound: 1 died; 4 were stranded alive; 24

<sup>1</sup>Gordon Hubbell, Director, Crandon Park Zoo, Miami, Fla. 33149, pers. commun. 1977.

<sup>2</sup>Florida Marine Patrol, Officer in Charge, Ft. Myers Office, pers. commun. July 1976.